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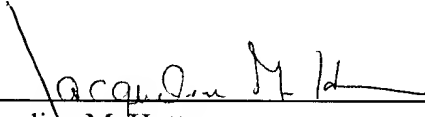
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Consideration of the cited documents and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-noted application are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), i.e., before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits pertaining to the above-referenced application. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below.

  
Jacqueline M. Hutter

Date August 21, 2001